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and white man, produce a hybrid offspring, and that hybrid reproducing in turn, one or other of the original types will sometimes occur in such progeny.

In Peru some Spanish families, two or three centuries since, intermarried with the Inca, or purely Indian race; and notwithstanding no further cross with the Indian stock has subsequently occurred in these families, the Indian characteristics are said occasionally to reappear even at the present time.

Asiatics may have landed ages ago upon this continent; but if they did so, they have all been swallowed up and lost, in the indigenous population; and no unequivocal trace of them remains in our Indian population. Before the landing of Columbus, as well as since, the New World has presented every possible vicissitude of climate which could be supposed to produce a negro or any other race, but not an individual of such a race has ever appeared.

Dr. M. added, that such was the effect of the blending of dissimilar types on the American continent, that he could produce, from among the colored population of this city, many of the diversified forms and colors that exist in Africa itself.

In the case of seven species of domestic fowl, Temminck has shown that five out of the seven cross among each other, and produce prolific hybrids, and then branch out into innumerable varieties: and the varieties of the domestic pigeon differ more among each other than some distinct genera of other animals·

Domestic cattle if bred *in and in*, dwindle. In Paraguay it is necessary to refresh the stock by importations from other pastures. Other domestic cattle also exhibit this peculiarity of hybrids.

If mulattoes were bred *in and in*, without resorting to the parent stock, they would soon become extinct.

A circular was read from the Committee of reception of the National Pacific Railroad Convention, now in Session in Philadelphia, asking permission of the Academy for the members of the Convention to visit the Museum; whereupon a resolution was adopted granting the desired permission.

April 9th.

Dr. Morton, President, in the Chair.

Dr. Leidy remarked that crystalline bodies had been detected in most of the tissues of many plants, but that their occurrence in animal tissues was much more rare. The deposit of earthy salts in many tissues, such as bone, enamel and shell, though analogous, was not homologous with crystallization. The earthy deposit in the shell of the egg of many animals is probably an instance of true crystallization within an animal tissue, for in those animals which have eggs with a semi-membranous shell, as many helices, &c ,we can detect the carbonate of lime deposited in the form of regular rhombohedrons. He stated that he lately met with a remarkable instance of crystallization within animal organic cells. In examining the stomach of the larva of Arctia Isabella, a Lepidopterous insect, he found that the nucleus of every epithelial cell contained an octohedral crystal, the axes of which measured about the 1-3750th of an inch. The cells were colorless, (not white,) containing some faintly granular matter, which, in many instances, was collected into distinct rounded masses. The nuclei were round, elliptical, or lenticular, transparent, and measured the 1-1666th of an inch when round. The following day, upon examining some of the cells, which had been preserved between two slips of glass hermetically seale,d the crystals had disappeared, and the nuclei had become distinctly and opaquely granular. Acetic acid rendered the granular matter more translucent, and brought into view the nuclelous, which, not being visible the preceding day, probably served as the nucleus of the crystalline body. The animal, when examined, was in a state of hybernation, at which period, organic activity is reduced, which would predispose to the crystallization of any salt in solution in an organic cell; for it appears that the frequency of the existence of crystalline bodies in the organic kingdom, is, to a considerable extent, dependent upon an inverse ratio of activity of life.

Dr. Morton then resumed the subject of the plurality of origin of the human race. In evidence of its orthodoxy, and of its being in accordance with the liberal interpretation of the Pentateuch, he adduced the last edition of the work of the Rev. Dr. John Pye Smith, on the Relations of Geology and Revelation. This author designates the Deluge as a local phenomenon, and circumscribes its limits. Geologists are in general convinced that it was not universal.

As regards the opinion that the various races of the human family were *primordially distinct*, Dr. Morton is convinced that the tendency of investigation goes every year to strengthen it. In other words, Man was aboriginally suited by his Creator for the various localities in which he has placed him. Dr. M. also read some interesting quotations from Dr. Pye Smith's work, in further support of this opinion. Mr. White, of England, fifty years since, also maintained that the plurality of the human race was in accordance with the text of Genesis, and Mr. E. King strenuously takes the same ground. In 1825, Rev. Dr. Thomas Arnold remarks, in a letter to Archbishop Wheatley, "that he fears the physiological question is not yet settled."

Dr. Morton distinctly disclaimed any desire to enter into controversy on the biblical view of the question; but he was glad to show, from clerical authors, that the naked facts of zöological science, and the statement of Genesis, are in harmony with each other.

April 16*th*.

DR. MORTON, in the Chair.

Dr. Leidy read a description of new species of Entophyta, which was referred to Drs. Bridges and Zantzinger, and Mr. Powel

A letter was read from Mr. James Deane, dated Greenfield, Mass., April 8, 1850, in reference to the publication in the Journal of the Academy of a paper by him on the Sandstone fossils of the Connecticut valley. Referred to the Publication Committee.

Two communications were read from the Geological Society of London, dated Somerset House, 8th Nov. and 22d Nov., 1849, severally acknowledging the receipt of late numbers of the Proceedings, and of Part 3, new series of the Journal.